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SAN LUCAS RANCH

P.O. Box 338, Santa Ynez, CA 93460



TO: Sean Baldridge DATE: 12/1/98
OF: _____ FROM: Nancy Crawford
FAX NO. 1-925-935-5368 PAGES: 6 incl cover
INSTRUCTIONS: As per your request —

San Lucas Ranch

P. O. Box 338
Santa Ynez CA 93460
USA

Phone (805) 688-9421
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12/1/98

Jean E. Baldridge
590 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Suite 200
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Dear Jean:

As per your request, I am sending a letter to you regarding the concerns of San Lucas Ranch with respect to year-round water in the Santa Ynez River due to "restoration" efforts of the steelhead/rainbow trout. Let me first state that "restoration" is an inaccurate description since it implies that the situation that is being created on the Santa Ynez River actually existed in the past. Those people who have been in this Valley for a long time are aware that abundant numbers of steelhead/rainbow trout only occurred in wet years, primarily after major floods had cleared the sandbar at Surf allowing access from the ocean.

That said, I have recently written a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the Hilton Creek Permanent Watering System. I addressed most of the issues which would apply to your question. Unfortunately, the Bureau chose to not address our concerns but instead claimed that they were operating issues. I have included a copy of that letter.

In very simple terms, due to the introduction of year-round water in the Santa Ynez River, we are no longer able to use our property in the river as we used to. It has made our work situation extremely hazardous to our employees, our animals, and ourselves. Due to the listing of the trout as endangered, we are now unable to make our river crossings safe without applying for permits, which I know, will make it impossible for us to conduct business. In addition, because our river crossing is no longer safe, we are unable to effectively use our @1000 acre pasture on the other side. This is severely impacting our ability to conduct our business.

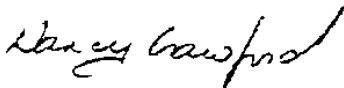
The other huge issue here is the introduction of more vegetation to the river. It may be great for the fish but it is not great for San Lucas Ranch's groundwater supplies. It may first appear that additional water to the system could be a desirable contribution to the groundwater. Looking farther down the road than most "committees" would, there will come a time when the vegetation will oustrip the supply of additional water. Of course, there is also no accounting for additional population and additional water-intensive agriculture, both of which are booming in this Valley these days. The only water supply we have is within the boundaries of the ranch and we are becoming increasingly concerned with the introduction of major plantings on the other side of the fence, such as Caltrans planting 1000 trees and bushes on two of our creeks and the river.

They may be located on Caltrans right-of-way, but they drink from the same groundwater basin-ours! They have also fertilized those trees and bushes with two different types of fertilizer, which will probably be attributed to pollution from our animals. We have an on-going conversation with them regarding these issues.

As you can see, we have a number of issues, which are critical to our continued successful operation. To date, no agency, whether public or private, has made any effort to mitigate the negative impacts to our property caused by their efforts. Unfortunately, if this attitude continues, legal steps will have to be taken. I do hope that you will find a cooperative spirit in the fish community before this occurs.

Thank you for asking the question.

Sincerely,



Nancy Crawford
Manager

cc: Mr. Jim Hurley, Price, Postel & Parma